

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 2-10, 13, 15-21 have been amended and claims 11, 12, and 14 have been canceled as follows:

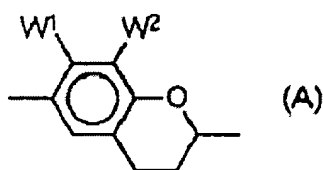
Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A liquid crystal display element:

having a structure comprising a pair of substrates, and a liquid crystal composition sandwiched between the substrates;

comprising at least an alignment control layer, a transparent electrode, and a polarizing plate; and

characterized in that the liquid crystal composition comprises at least one liquid crystal compound having a partial structure represented by general formula (A):

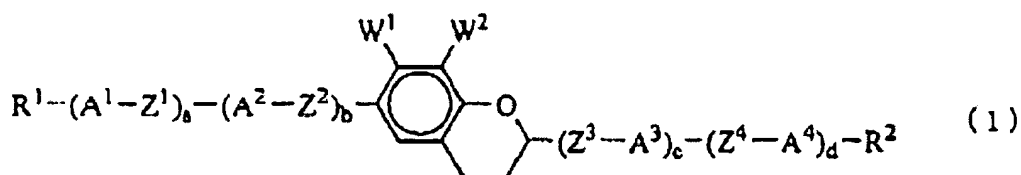


(wherein W¹ and W² each independently represents fluorine, chlorine, -CF₃, -CF₂H, -OCF₃, or -OCF₂H) and has a negative dielectric anisotropy.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal display element according to claim

1, wherein W¹ and W² represent fluorine in the general formula (A).

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A compound represented by general formula (1):



(wherein

R^1 and R^2 each independently represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, in which one CH_2 group or at least two CH_2 groups that are not adjacent to each other may be substituted by oxygen or sulfur, or in which at least one hydrogen may be substituted by fluorine or chlorine,

A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 each independently represents a trans-1, 4-cyclohexylene group (in which one CH_2 group or two CH_2 groups that are not adjacent to each other may be substituted by oxygen or sulfur), a 1,4-phenylene group (in which at least one CH group may be substituted by nitrogen), a 1,4-cyclohexenylene group, a 1,4-bicyclo[2,2.2]octylene group, a piperidine-1,4-diyl group, a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group, a decahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group or a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, in which hydrogen may be substituted by -CN or halogen,

Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 , and Z^4 each independently represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$, $-\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2-$, $-\text{CF}=\text{CF}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCH}_2-$, $-\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_4-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_3-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCF}_2-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{COS}-$, $-\text{SCO}-$, or a single bond,

when A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 , and Z^4 respectively exist in plural, they may be identical to each other or different from each other,

a, b, c, and d each independently represents 0 or 1, and

W^1 and W^2 each independently represents fluorine, chlorine, $-CF_3$, $-CF_2H$, $-OCF_3$, or $-OCF_2H$).

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 3, wherein ~~in the general formula (1)~~ R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 7 carbon atoms (in which one CH_2 group may be substituted by oxygen), and W^1 and W^2 represent fluorine in the general formula (1).

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 3, wherein ~~in the general formula (1)~~ A^1 , A^2 , A^3 and A^4 each independently represents a trans1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted by at least one fluorine, or a 1,4-bicyclo[2.2.2]octylene group in the general formula (1).

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 3, wherein ~~in the general formula (1)~~ Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 , and Z^4 each independently represents $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CF_2CF_2-$, $-CF=CF-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CF_2O-$, $-OCF_2-$ or a single bond in the general formula (1).

Claim 7 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 3, wherein ~~in the general formula (1)~~ the sum of a, b, c, and d is 1 or 2 in the general formula (1).

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 3, wherein ~~in the general formula (1)~~ R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 7 carbon atoms (in which a CH_2 group may be

substituted by oxygen), W^1 and W^2 represent fluorine, A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted by at least one fluorine, or a 1,4-bicyclo[2.2.2]octylene group, Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 and Z^4 each independently represents $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CF_2CF_2-$, $-CF=CF-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CF_2O-$, $-OCF_2-$, or a single bond, and the sum of a, b, c, and d is 1 or 2 in the general formula (1).

Claim 9 (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 3, wherein ~~in the general formula (1)~~ R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 7 carbon atoms, or an alkoxyl group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms, A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, a 2-fluoro-1,4-phenylene group, a 3-fluoro-1,4-phenylene group, or a 2,3-difluoro-1,4-phenylene group, Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 , and Z^4 each independently represents $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, or a single bond, W^1 and W^2 represent fluorine, and the sum of a, b, c, and d is 1 or 2 in the general formula (1).

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 9, wherein ~~in the general formula (1)~~ A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group in the general formula (1).

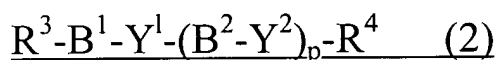
Claim 11 (Canceled):

Claim 12 (Canceled):

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal composition comprising at least one liquid crystal compound according to claim ~~11~~ 3.

Claim 14 (Canceled):

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal ~~compound which can be used in the liquid crystal display element according to claim 1~~ composition according to claim 13,
comprising at least one liquid crystal compound according to claim 14 compound
represented by general formula (2):



(wherein,

R³ and R⁴ each independently represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, in which one CH₂ group or at least two CH₂ groups that are not adjacent to each other may be substituted by oxygen or sulfur, or in which at least one hydrogen may be substituted by fluorine or chlorine,

B¹ and B² each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group (in which one CH₂ group or two CH₂ groups that are not adjacent to each other may be substituted by oxygen or sulfur), a 1,4-phenylene group (in which at least one CH group may be substituted by nitrogen), a 1,4-cyclohexenylene group, a 1,4-bicyclo[2.2.2]octylene group, a piperidine-1,4-diyl group, a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group, a decahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group or a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, in which hydrogen may be substituted by -CN or halogen,

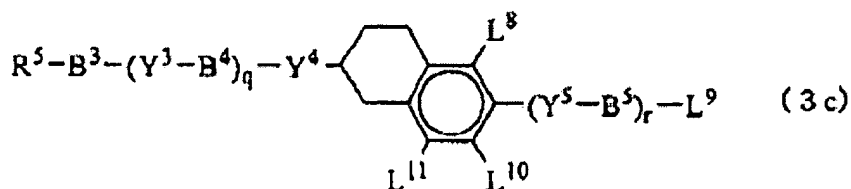
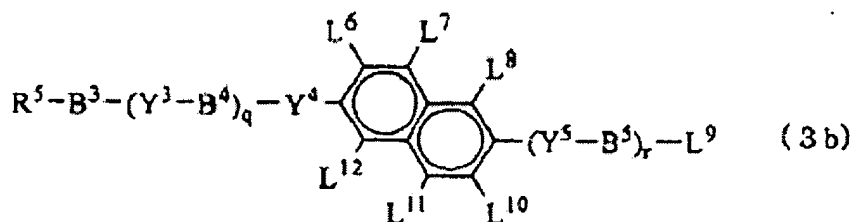
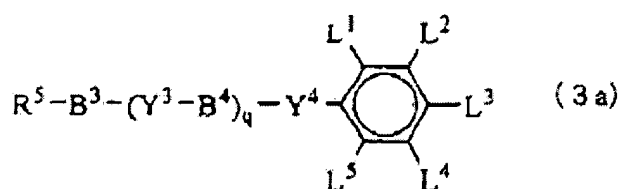
Y¹ and Y² each independently represents -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -CH(CH₃)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -CH(CH₃)CH(CH₃)-, -CF₂CF₂-, -CF=CF-, -CH₂O-, -OCH₂-,

-OCH(CH₃)-, -CH(CH₃)O-, -(CH₂)₄-, -(CH₂)₃O-, -O(CH₂)₃-, -C≡C-, -CF₂O-, -OCF₂-,
-COO-, -OCO-, -COS-, -SCO-, or a single bond,

when Y² and B² respectively exist in plural, they may be identical to each other or
different from each other, and
p represents 0, 1 or 2).

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal composition according to claim 13 display
element according to claim 1, comprising at least one liquid crystal compound according to
claim 14 compound represented by the general formula (2).

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal composition according to claim 13,
comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds
represented by general formula (3a), general formula (3b), and general formula (3c):



(wherein

R^5 represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, in which one CH_2 group or at least two CH_2 groups that are not adjacent to each other may be substituted by oxygen or sulfur, or in which at least one hydrogen may be ~~substituted~~ substituted by fluorine or chlorine,

B^3 , B^4 , and B^5 each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group (in which one CH_2 group or two CH_2 groups that are not adjacent to each other may be substituted by oxygen or sulfur), a 1,4-phenylene group (in which at least one CH group may be substituted by nitrogen), a 1,4-cyclohexenylene group, a 1,4-bicyclo[2.2.2]octylene group, a piperidine-1,4-diyl group, a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group, a decahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group or a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, in which hydrogen may be substituted by -CN or halogen,

Y^3 , Y^4 , and Y^5 each independently represents $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH(CH_3)-$, $-CF_2CF_2-$, $-CF=CF-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, $-OCH(CH_3)-$, $-CH(CH_3)O-$, $-(CH_2)_4-$, $-(CH_2)_3O-$, $-O(CH_2)_3-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CF_2O-$, $-OCF_2-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-COS-$, $-SCO-$, or a single bond,

L^1 , L^2 , L^4 , L^5 , L^6 , L^7 , L^8 , L^{10} , L^{11} , and L^{12} each independently represents hydrogen or fluorine,

q and r each independently represents 0, 1, or 2, provided that the sum of q and r is no more than 2, and

L^3 and L^9 each independently represents hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, -CN, $-CF_3$, $-OCH_2F$, $-OCHF_2$, $-OCF_3$, $-CH_2CF_3$, or the same meaning as R^5),

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal composition according to claim 13, wherein a content ratio of the liquid crystal compound according to ~~claim 11~~ represented by general formula (1) is 2 to 30% by mass.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal composition according to claim 13, wherein the liquid crystal composition has a dielectric anisotropy value $[\Delta\epsilon]$ of no more than -0.2.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal display element according to claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal display element has its drive system is an active matrix drive system.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal display element according to claim 1, wherein $[\Delta\epsilon]$ the liquid crystal display element has a liquid crystal alignment regulated by the alignment control layer $[\Delta\epsilon]$ to be vertical to a surface of the substrate.